

Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

77-802/21

13 JUN 1977

Derek C. Bok, President
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear President Bok:

I have read with interest the new guidelines you have announced to regulate the relationships between Harvard, its faculty and staff, and the Central Intelligence Agency. I particularly welcome your recognition of the need for an effective system for the production and collection of foreign intelligence within our government and your realization of the important contribution that the American academic community continues to make toward improving our understanding of foreign developments.

May I say that we in the Intelligence Community of the United States recognize and appreciate the immense benefits we receive from extensive relationships with scholars and academic institutions throughout the country. Leading historians and political scientists and some of their best pupils have brought a high degree of intellectual energy, curiosity, and integrity to our profession and have made sure that our analytical efforts continually take account of the best research available in the private sector. Indeed, we have systematically and conscientiously built many of the components and practices of the intelligence profession on models from academia. American scholars who have been willing to share information and interpretations of developments in the international arena often have contributed valuably to intelligence support of the U.S. foreign policy-making process. Without the continuing assistance of the academic community, our ability to provide the President and other senior officials with objective and enlightened analyses and estimates would be hampered. I believe strongly that in this increasingly complex and competitive world it remains in the best interests of both the academic and intelligence communities to expand and refine their contacts in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding.

-2-

Current CIA policy covering our relations with American staff and faculty members of U.S. academic institutions is already, to a large degree, consistent with the Harvard guidelines. Present Agency policies may be summarized as follows:

- All of our contracts with academic institutions are entered into with the knowledge of appropriate senior management officials of the institution concerned.

All recruiting for CIA staff employment on campus is overt.

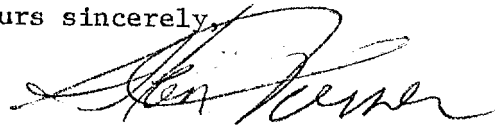
It is against our policy to obtain the unwitting services of American staff and faculty members of U.S. academic institutions.

I am pleased that you have a guideline which expressly authorizes individual consulting arrangements with intelligence agencies. As I have said, these relationships are of inestimable value to us. I must, however, take exception with the provision in this guideline which requires your faculty members to report such arrangements in writing to the dean of their faculty. At least, I take such exception if a similar regulation is not applicable to liaison arrangements with industry, other governmental agencies, foreign governments, etc. If such is not the case, I believe that attempts to regulate the private lives of our citizens in a manner discriminatory to any particular group, profession or segment of society poses serious risks. I believe that we would be far safer not to single out any group, despite what may be transient enthusiasm for so doing. In point of fact, it is our policy in these cases to suggest to individual scholars that they inform appropriate officials at their universities of their relationship with CIA. Frequently, however, scholars object to advising any third parties on the understandable grounds that to do so would violate their constitutional rights to privacy and free association and possibly expose them to harassment and damage to their professional careers. As you are aware, there are two such cases of unfair and prejudicial harassment at this time on other campuses. Thus, the decision on whether to advise their institution of a relationship with CIA is left to the discretion of the individual. We intend to continue respecting the wishes of individuals in this regard.

-3-

In closing, let me express the hope that your guidelines will help in improving the cooperation that already exists between the U.S. academic and intelligence communities. I also wish that you would bring promptly to my attention any case in the future where you think there has been an abuse or improper use of our authority. You can be assured that I will move quickly to ascertain the facts and to take such remedial action as may be necessary.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stansfield Turner", written in a cursive style.

STANSFIELD TURNER

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